

The Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A surgical device for implantation in a body comprising:
an implant made of metal; and
a polymeric material bonded to the implant,
wherein the polymeric material includes a therapeutic agent.
2. The surgical device of claim 1 wherein the therapeutic agent is a tissue ingrowth promoter.
3. The surgical device of claim 1 wherein the therapeutic agent is an antibiotic.
4. The surgical device of claim 3 wherein the implant is an expandable implant.
5. The surgical device of claim 4 wherein the implant includes a plurality of transverse ribs and a plurality of longitudinal ribs.
6. The surgical device of claim 3 wherein the implant includes a plurality of barbs for enhancing tissue engagement.
7. The surgical device of claim 1 wherein the implant and the polymeric material bond to each other by application of heat.
8. The surgical device of claim 7 wherein the biodegradable material covers at least a portion of the implant.
9. The surgical device of claim 8 wherein the heat is limited to a temperature tolerated by a human body.

10. The surgical device of claim 9 wherein the biodegradable material has a transition temperature below about 190° C.
11. A surgical device for implantation in a body comprising:
an implant, at least a portion of which is expandable; and
a polymeric material bonded to the implant,
wherein the polymeric material is a thermoplastic and includes a therapeutic agent.
12. The surgical device of claim 11 wherein the therapeutic agent is a tissue ingrowth promoter.
13. The surgical device of claim 11 wherein the therapeutic agent is an antibiotic.
14. The surgical device of claim 13 wherein the implant is made of metal.
15. The surgical device of claim 14 wherein the implant includes a plurality of transverse ribs and a plurality of longitudinal ribs.
16. The surgical device of claim 14 wherein the implant includes a plurality of barbs for enhancing tissue engagement.
17. The surgical device of claim 16 wherein the polymeric material covers at least a portion of the implant.
18. The surgical device of claim 17 wherein the polymeric material is bonded to the implant by the application of heat.
19. The surgical device of claim 18 wherein the heat is limited to a temperature tolerated by a human body.

20. The surgical device of claim 19 wherein the polymeric material has a transition temperature below about 190° C.
21. A method for making a surgical device comprising the steps of:
providing an implant;
providing a flowable material with a therapeutic agent; and
bonding the flowable material to the implant.
22. The method of claim 21 wherein the therapeutic agent is an antibiotic or a tissue ingrowth promoter.
23. The method of claim 21 wherein the flowable material is heated.
24. The method of claim 23 wherein the flowable material is heated to a temperature below around 190° C.
25. The method of claim 21 wherein the flowable material covers at least a portion of the implant.
26. The method of claim 21 wherein the flowable material and at least a portion of the implant are made of a heat bondable material.